

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Prior to examination, please cancel claim 1.

Please add claims 2-9.

1. (canceled)

a base unit including at least one source of audio input;

at least one speaker operable to provide audio output;

a removable faceplate, wherein the removable faceplate is an active device when removed from the base unit, the removable face plate having a host connector to allow the faceplate to connect to a host; and

a base connector operable to connect the removable faceplate to the base unit.

2. (original) An audio system, comprising:

a base unit including at least one source of audio input;

at least one output device operable to provide audio output; and

a removable faceplate adapted to connect to the base unit,

wherein the removable faceplate is operable independent of the base unit as digital audio player.

3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the at least output device includes an a speaker.

4. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the removable faceplate is operable to play digital audio in a Moving Pictures Expert Group, Layer 3 (MP3) format.

5. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the removable faceplate comprises rechargeable batteries operable to be recharged when the faceplate is connected to the base unit.

6. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the base unit and the removable faceplate are operable to transfer digital audio files therebetween.

7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the removable faceplate is further operable to download digital audio files from a separate host.
8. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the base unit is operable to download digital audio files from the removable faceplate to build a music library stored in the base unit.
9. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the removable faceplate is further operable as a voice recorder and wherein the base unit is operable to play voice recordings from the removable faceplate.